IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Claude E. Brown

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

Issued Patent No.:

5,848,492

"Express Mail" Mailing Label Number EL 419298919US

Patent Issue Date:

December 15, 1998

I hereby certify that this paper, accompanying documents are being deposited with the United States Postal Service

For:

AGRICULTURAL **METHODS WITH**

"Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Service under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date indicated above and are addressed to

Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Reissue,

SUPERHEATED STEAM

Washington, DC 20231

December 15, 2000 Date

Attorney Docket:

800132-15

UNDER 37 CFR § 1.173(c)

STATEMENT OF STATUS/SUPPORT FOR CHANGES TO CLAIMS

BOX: REISSUE

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Changes to the claims are presented in the Preliminary Amendment attached herewith. This paper presents a status of claims and support for changes are presented in the attached Preliminary Amendment.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 18 remain from the original application. Of those, claims 11 and 12 have been amended with this amendment. New claims 19-43 are presented with this amendment.

SUPPORT FOR CLAIM CHANGES

The claim changes included herein are presented to correct, within two years of the original issue date, the error of having claimed less than the patentee had the right to claim in the original patent. Support for claim changes are found at several places within the specification and drawings. The following are illustrative examples indicating support for these changes. They are not the only examples within the specification and drawings to support these changes, nor are the examples meant to limit the scope of the claims.

Amended claims 11 and 12 more broadly claim the use of superheated steam to defoliation, which is also addressed in new claims 19-21. The invention has been described, in part, as being generally useful for defoliating plants. Support for claims to defoliation in general can be found at column 2, lines 39-42, and in FIG. 1 and the supporting text. While not meant to limit the scope of the invention, the specification describes the use of superheated steam to defoliate plants in general (column 2, lines 43-46), and also describes some specific examples, for example to a vine, tree, shrub or the like (column 4, lines 8-10).

Claims 22 - 29 and 30 - 36 are directed to treatment of grafts. An example of the application to grafts can be found in column 5, lines 5 - 8.

Claims 37 - 43 are to the previously disclosed matter of fumigation. The invention has been described, in part, as being generally useful for fumigation. Support for claims to fumigation are found, in part, in the SUMMARY OF INVENTION, and at column 5, lines 11 - 14.

CLOSING

In view of the foregoing, it is now believed that all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (415) 986-1300.

Respectfully submitted,

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